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An Act To Make Clam Flat Status Notification More Efficient, Cost-effective and Economically Beneficial to the Shellfish Industry

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6621, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Closure status notification. Notwithstanding any rule, the department shall list information concerning any area opened or closed pursuant to this section on the shellfish sanitation hotline provided by the department and on the department's publicly accessible website.

Sec. 2. Change of public publication. The Department of Marine Resources shall by rule change its system of notification of opening and closure of clam flats from notification by newspaper to notification by the shellfish sanitation hotline and the department's publicly accessible website. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This bill makes the shellfish sanitation hotline and the Department of Marine Resources' website the means by which the department notifies shellfish harvesters of the opening and closing of clam flats. It also directs the department to change its rule and no longer use newspaper publication as the method of notification.